

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 612  
By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Steve Nelson for 50 years in church music as a conductor, clinician, composer, arranger, and lecturer.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Church Musician Steve Nelson, who, on April 16, 2006, will conclude fifty years of artistic involvement as a conductor, clinician, composer, arranger, and lecturer; and

WHEREAS, Steve Nelson was born and raised in Unicoi County; he honorably and courageously served his country in the United States Navy; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Steed College, Mr. Nelson also completed additional work at East Tennessee State University, Drake University, the College of William and Mary at Norfolk, and the Center for Health Studies in Nashville, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Nelson is a former Associate Professor of Church Music History and Director of the Chapel Choir at Graham Bible College; he is the creator of the "Choir in Worship" workshop; and

WHEREAS, as radio producer and host of "The Weekend Report" on WETB-AM in Johnson City, Steve Nelson brought representatives from medicine, government, recreation, education, health, and the arts to the show, which is now in its nineteenth year; he has made the program available to both the House and the Senate of the Tennessee General Assembly for an open and unbiased discussion of many and various issues; and

WHEREAS, an artist blessed with a broad spectrum of talent, Steve Nelson is also a published author. He has written two books, one based on some of the interviews heard on "The

Weekend Report,” including those of the late Congressman James H. Quillen and the late Dru Smith of the Nashville Capitol Hill Press Corps; he is a contributing author of “Dimensions in Church Drama, First Edition,” published by Broadman Press of Nashville; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his distinctive professional career, Mr. Nelson has served with acumen and alacrity on various commissions, including the allocation committee of the Tennessee Arts Commission and the Tennessee Film and Music Commission; he has also visited in several East Tennessee Schools as a resource person and served as an adjunct lecturer at the College of Public and Allied Health at East Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, a charismatic leader and passionate musician, Steve Nelson was the Tennessee Representative on the Board of Directors for “Horn in the West” and related historic properties in Boone, North Carolina; he served on the Logistics Committee of the highly successful two-day Governor’s Economic Summit held in Kingsport and is a member of the American Society of Composers, Arrangers, and Producers (ASCAP), and a national member of the Metropolitan Opera Company; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Steve Nelson has received two rarely presented “Friend of Education” awards, one from the Washington County Board of Education and the other from the Johnson City Board of Education; in 1999, he was presented the Lifetime Achievement Award by the American Guild of Choral Musicians; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Nelson was commissioned by the Veteran Affairs Committee of the Town of Jonesborough to compose a choral work for their annual Memorial Day ceremonies, and he is currently working on a new cantata based on “The Creation”; and

WHEREAS, stepping down from the podium after fifty years, Steve Nelson will leave a great void in the lives of his colleagues, dear friends, and the countless others he befriended, inspired, and influenced throughout his life and career; he leaves behind a legacy of musical excellence and passionate advocacy; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we honor the professional achievements of Steve Nelson, reflecting fondly on his warm and wonderful character and his visionary artistic leadership; he epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Steve Nelson for fifty meritorious years in church music as a stellar conductor, clinician, composer, arranger, and lecturer. For his commitment to excellence and all of his incomparable gifts to us, we owe an inestimable debt of gratitude and extend to Steve Nelson our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.